



Industrial Energy Consumers of America

The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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February 16, 2021

The Honorable Dan Lauwers
State Senator
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Chairman Lauwers,

On behalf of our member companies with operations in Michigan, we urge you to reject SB 103, which would allow an incumbent monopoly utility the exclusive right to construct, own, and maintain transmission lines in its service territory. This policy would deny consumers of the benefits of competition in the development of transmission lines which reduces costs to the ratepayer. Anyone who has been deemed a qualified transmission developer by a regional transmission organization should be able to build a transmission line, not just the incumbent monopoly utility.

Manufacturers consume 30 percent of the electricity in Michigan.¹ The cost of electricity is essential to manufacturing competitiveness, jobs, and investment. Furthermore, electric transmission costs are our highest increased energy cost. Competition in building transmission projects is essential to reduce costs. Doing so is in the public interest.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these issues. If you have any questions, please contact me at 703-216-7402 or pcicio@ieca-us.org.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio

Paul N. Cicio
President & CEO

CC: Members, Michigan Senate Energy & Technology Committee

¹ Retail sales of electricity to ultimate customers by state, U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data.php#sales>.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.1 trillion in annual sales, over 4,200 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.8 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through advocacy and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, automotive, brewing, independent oil refining, and cement.